

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings:

1-79. (Cancelled)

80. (Withdrawn) A method in a distributed system comprised of a plurality of lookup services with associated network services and a client lookup manager, the method comprising the steps of: receiving a reference to one of said plurality of lookup services; and storing said reference on said client lookup manager.

81. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 80, further comprising: identifying at least one network service associated with the lookup service; and storing a reference to said network service on said client lookup manager.

82. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 80, further comprising: identifying at least one network service associated with the lookup service; and storing said network service on said client lookup manager.

83. (Currently amended) A method in a distributed system ~~comprised of~~ , said system comprising a plurality of lookup services with associated network services, and a client computer having a client lookup manager with an associated cache, the method comprising the steps of the client lookup manager:

receiving, at the client lookup manager from the client computer, a request to access a network service;

retrieving, using the client lookup manager, a reference to a lookup service from searching the associated cache, ~~wherein said lookup service is associated with said~~ for an instance of the requested network service;

returning, when said searching step is successful, the instance of the requested network service to the client computer;

~~sending, from the client lookup manager, when said searching step is unsuccessful, a request to [[the]] a lookup service identifying the requested network service to be accessed; and~~

~~displaying at least one icon identifying the network service to be accessed when the network service to be accessed is available~~

~~storing received responses to said request in the associated cache.~~

84. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 83, wherein the retrieving

searching step further comprises searching a table of the plurality of lookup services and the associated network services for said the requested network service.

85. (Withdrawn) A method in a distributed system comprised of a plurality of lookup services with associated network services and a client lookup manager with an associated cache, the method comprising the steps of: receiving a request to access a network service; transmitting said request to at least one of said plurality of lookup services, provided a reference to said network service is not stored in the cache; and retrieving a reference to a lookup service associated with the requested network service.

86. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for accessing network services, the data processing system having a software cache and a plurality of lookup services available for use in the data processing system, the method comprising the steps of: receiving a reference to one of said plurality of lookup services; and storing said reference on said client lookup manager.

87. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium according to claim 86, further comprising: identifying at least one network service associated with the lookup service; and storing a reference to said network service on said client lookup manager.

88. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium according to claim 86, further comprising: identifying at least one network service associated with the lookup service; and storing said network service on said client lookup manager.

89. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions which, when executed on a data processing system having an associated cache, cause the data processing system to perform a method for accessing network services, the data processing system ~~having a software cache and~~ communicatively coupled to a plurality of lookup services ~~available for use in the data processing system~~, the method comprising the steps of the data processing apparatus:

~~receiving, at the data processing apparatus, from a client computer~~ a request to access a network service;

~~retrieving, using the data processing apparatus, a reference to a lookup service from searching the software associated cache, wherein said lookup service is associated with said for an instance of the requested~~ network service;

~~returning, when said searching step is successful, the instance of the requested network service to the client computer;~~

~~sending, from the data processing apparatus when said searching step is unsuccessful,~~ a request to ~~[[the]]~~ a lookup service identifying the requested network service to be accessed; and

~~displaying at least one icon identifying the network service to be accessed when the network service to be accessed is available~~

storing received responses to said request in the associated cache.

90. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 89, wherein the retrieving searching step further comprises searching a table of the plurality of lookup services and associated network services for said the requested network service.

91. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for accessing network services, the data processing system having a software cache and a plurality of lookup services available for use in the data processing system, the method comprising the steps of: receiving a request to access a network service; transmitting said request to at least one of said plurality of lookup services, provided a reference to said network service is not stored in the cache; and retrieving a reference to a lookup service associated with the requested network service.

92. (Currently Amended) A distributed system comprising:

a server computer with a lookup service having references to a plurality of network services; and

a client computer including a client lookup manager with an associated cache, wherein said client lookup manager:

receives, from the client computer, a request to access a network service;

searches the associated cache for an instance of the requested network service;

returns, when said searching step is successful, the instance of the requested network service to the client computer;

sends, when said searching step is unsuccessful, a request, identifying the requested network service, to the server, a reference to one of said plurality of lookup services ; and

stores said reference received responses to said request in the associated cache of said client lookup manager.

93. (Withdrawn) A distributed system having a first computer with a client, a client lookup manager with an associated cache, and a second computer with a lookup service containing service references for accessing associated network services, the distributed system comprising: means for receiving a reference to one of said plurality of lookup services; and means for storing said reference on said client lookup manager.

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